

**the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues, or believes that some or all of the claims are not in condition for allowance, the applicant respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned to schedule a telephone Examiner Interview before any further actions on the merits.**

The applicant will now address each of the issues raised in the outstanding Office Action.

### **Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 26-28, 38 and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable by U.S. Patent No. 6,219,011 ("the Aloni patent") and U.S. Patent No. 6,633,301 ("the Ohsawa patent"). The applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this ground of rejection in view of the following.

The applicant has perfected his claim to priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 by filing certified translations of the foreign priority documents herewith. Thus, the effective filing dates of this application (May 31, 1999 and April 28, 2000) predate the § 102(e) date of the Ohsawa patent (May 24, 2000). More specifically, the applicant perfected his claim to priority by filing herewith translations of the certified priority documents JP 11-152873, filed on May 31, 1999, and JP 2000-131462, filed on April 28, 2000. Each is accompanied by a statement that the translations are true and accurate. (See, MPEP 201.15.) The present application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/583,660 ("the parent application"), which claims priority to JP 11-152873 and JP 2000-131462. (See the

Preliminary Amendment filed on December 17, 2003.) The foreign priority applications provide sufficient disclosure under 35 U.S.C. § 112 to support the pending claims.


Since the Ohsawa patent is no longer valid prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), this rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103, which requires the Ohsawa patent, should be withdrawn.

### **Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing remarks and the translations filed herewith, the applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the applicant requests that the Examiner pass this application to issue.

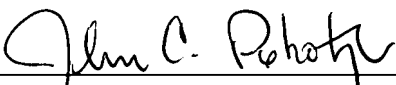
Respectfully submitted,

September 14, 2007

  
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### **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING under 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on **September 14, 2007** with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
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